

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS

The Story Told by a Resident of Eufala, Alabama, of a Death-Bed Scene.

The Authority a Pious Old Doctor Who Lived in an Orthodox Community.

Old Satan Himself, With His Pitchfork, Horns, Hoofs and All, Received a Departing Spirit.

A Greensboro (Ga.) dispatch to the Macon Telegraph says: A former resident of this county, now a citizen of Eufala, Ala., in a letter to a gentleman of this city, which letter your correspondent has been permitted to copy, narrates the following extraordinary story:

"In the year 1857, near the small village of White Plains, in the lower part of your county, one of the most extraordinary scenes transpired that has ever been recorded. I have the facts from my father, who was the physician of the neighborhood, and a man of truth and piety, as many old citizens now living will testify. I do not remember, but I think there were only one or two others and my father present. What they saw, however, was so strange and fearful that nothing was said about the affair. It was what my father termed a revelation from heaven of the end of the seer."

"Father was a man much given to solitude and at times was rather low-spirited. On more than one occasion I have overheard him relating to my mother some wonderful experiences he had met with during some of his professional visits. Once I distinctly remember he could not sleep, but got up and seemed to be in great trouble. It seems that he had been impressed with the idea that one of his patients had become suddenly worse, and that he had been sent for. In fact, I believe he had seen a vision or something of the kind in which the sick room, his patient rapidly sinking and a messenger being dispatched on horseback, were plainly visible. I need not say that the following morning this mysterious vision was fully verified, for the sick man had died during the night. The messenger had failed to arrive, owing to the swollen condition of a creek."

"I mention these things to show that father was no doubt possessed of what is now known as the sixth sense, by which certain things are mysteriously known, and were at times revelations from the spirit world. This sense, of course, is at present only abnormally developed in a few individuals of peculiar temperament. Many of the revelations of Emanuel Swedenborg were manifestly due to this fact, and there are certainly abundant authentic spiritualistic phenomena that can only be explained upon this supposition."

"There came to the Gumbill settlement a young school teacher, Mr. Blank, who was pleasant and affable in his manners, and though not a member of the church, was, I believe, strictly moral. His own private opinions were never publicly expressed except on rare occasions, when especially requested to do so. He soon succeeded in building up a fine school for the country, and his pupils were very much attached to him."

"While he attended meeting every Sunday, or rather preaching days, it was soon noticed that he invariably took a back seat and never knelt in prayer, but sat perfectly upright. Such conduct in a school teacher who should be a model of reverence and piety began to create some talk among the old women. In fact, in course of time it began to be gossiped around that Mr. Blank, for that was his name, didn't open school with prayer; and that it was suspected that he was a Universalist. Now the people of the lower end of Greene have always been noted for much piety, and any unorthodox expression, however trivial, has ever been considered insolent blasphemy. They have never even tolerated the idea that the torments of the damned would not be everlasting. It is not surprising, therefore, that in consequence of the rumors in circulation, several of the most prominent citizens called upon Mr. Blank and requested an explanation, or rather an expression of his religious belief."

"Whereupon he frankly stated that he was a Universalist, and added that he could never believe that a finite act deserved infinite punishment; that it was incompatible with the goodness, mercy and justice of God eternally to damn his children of whatever race."

"I need not add that in a few days Mr. Blank was compelled to dismiss school, though I believe one or two ungodly families continued to patronize him, and just before leaving the neighborhood he was taken suddenly ill. As soon as it was generally known, many said it was a judgment sent upon him. My father tended him, but in spite of all that could be done the fortunate man died; and at his death one of the most unusual sights was seen ever beheld in modern times."

"The following are the facts as my father related them to me."

"On Friday night," said my father, "my patient began rapidly to sink. I knew that his end was near. Already the shadowy image of death was seen in his eyes and he fixed them upon some unexpected but terrible sight. I have seen many a frightened soul go down into the dark shadowy waves of death, but never have I seen such an awful expression upon the face of the dying. As he fixed his eyes upon that unseen object his convulsions settled into a muscular tremor. His face assumed the color of wax, with a shadowy woe upon it; and in that awful gaze was pictured horror mingled with astonishment. Suddenly the walls of the room disappeared, and there was nothing to be seen but the blackness of the night, the candle's dim flickering light, which began to assume a preternatural appearance, and the dying man, whose staring, glassy eyes became more fixed and intense. A strange feeling came over me, and, as if led by a spell, I followed the direction of those awful eyes, and I saw a sight that has never since left my brain."

"I saw rising out of the earth great fiery flames that gave out no light, but rather shadowy darkness, in the midst of which I saw the horrid form of a vampire spirit. Horns were upon his head, and he stood leaning upon a huge fork, watching the dying man. In his exulting glee he would laugh and grin the most horrid grins. Here my senses began to fail me. It seems, however, just as the awful sight vanished, I saw a second spirit in the clutches of the vampire, in whose countenance I saw the shadowy woe of the lost; and I heard a cry for help, that grew fainter and fainter, of the most awful despair. I need not add that as soon as my father had sufficiently recovered, he saw that his patient was dead; and that all who came to view the remains remarked the ghastly expression of the face."

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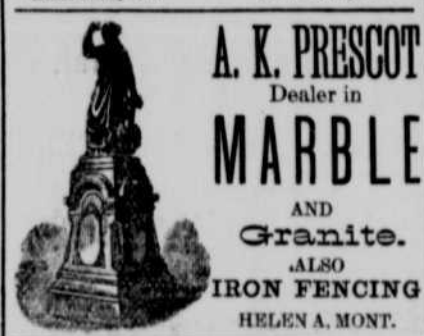


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3 Prizes of 1,000 are	3,000
6 Prizes of 500 are	3,000
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\$60,000	
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\$50,000	
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\$20,000	

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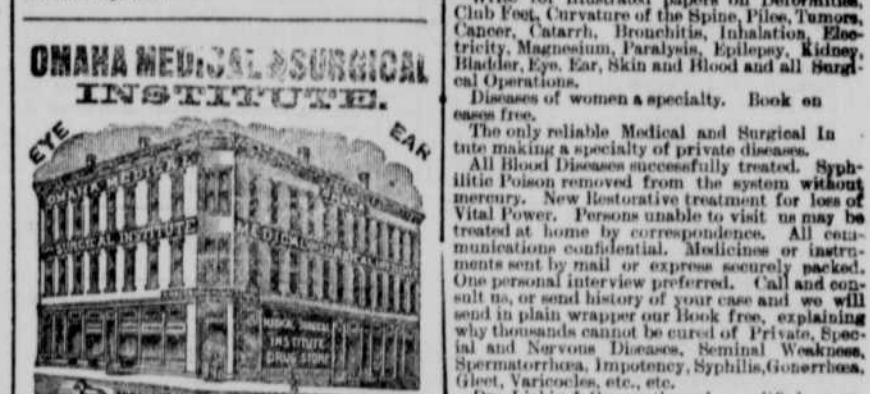
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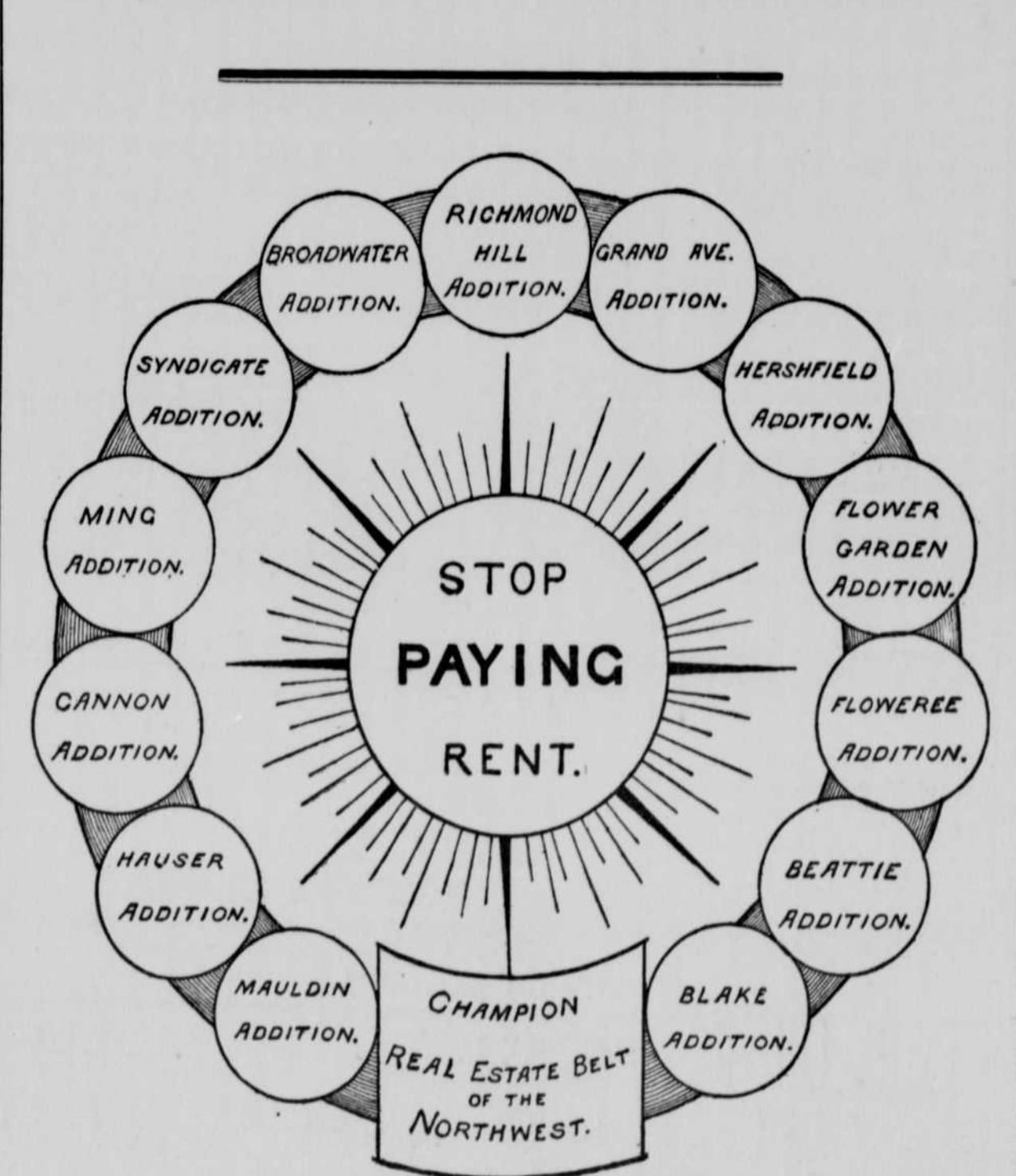
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